

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-11 (canceled)

12. (new) A method for controlling a communication gateway having a plurality of lines via a first peripheral device and a second peripheral device, comprising:

registering for a first packet-based signaling connection with the first device by the gateway, wherein the first connection is active in switching terms for all of the lines;

registering for a second packet based signaling connection with the second device by the gateway wherein the second connection is not active,

wherein the lines are selected from the group consisting of: subscriber lines, trunk lines, and combinations thereof,

whereby the non-accessibility or non-operability of the lines is minimized during a switchover from the first device to the second device.

13. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein each device has a different Internet Protocol (IP) address.

14. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the devices are mutually redundant.

15. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the devices are arranged within a Media Gateway Controller (MGC).

16. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein registrations occur during power-on of the gateway.

17. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein the registrations are substantially simultaneous.

18. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein a load sharing operation is provided by the signaling connection for each port.

19. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the gateway is selected from the group consisting of: a trunk gateway, access gateway, and a media gateway.

20. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the gateway receives a message on the second connection to indicate a switchover to the second device.

21. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein the message is a standard-compliant message that is used exclusively for a switchover, and wherein the gateway evaluates the message as a switchover.

22. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein a reliability of the linking of the gateway is increased by exchanging cyclical test messages between the gateway and the devices via a corresponding operator alerting.

Amendments to the Abstract:

In the English translation document, please add the abstract at page 17 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT

Access gateways in a packet-based network known in prior art have to log onto media gateway controllers that control said access gateways via standard protocols. The problem with said process is that switching to equivalent redundant devices takes too long. In order to minimize the time it takes to switch to equivalent devices, the access gateway simultaneously logs onto the at least two media gateway controllers such that at least two packet-based signaling connections are established while only one thereof is activated from the point of view of network services for the same plurality of users according to a specific selection criterion--